





Early 20th Century Utah Art Provides Springville Museum Visitors a Bonus

By J. TOM KALLUNKI
Springville Correspondent

SPRINGVILLE — Considerable attention is being focused on the Museum of Arts Exhibit of Norman Rockwell originals showing daily through March 3. Meanwhile, an exhibit of early 20th century Utah art (1900-1920) is on display in the adjoining upper southeast gallery. The show provides museum visitors with a real bonus.

Two attractive ladies and a national landmark dominate the gallery. On loan from the Utah Museum of Fine Arts is Lee Greene Richard's "Young Woman with a Green Purse." She commands the east wall of the hall. The magnificent oil, 77 inches high and 38 inches wide, garnered a Paris Salon award in 1909 for Richards who later was a professor at the University of Utah.

On the opposite wall, a familiar face lifts an aristocratic chin for the artist and art lover. She is A. B. Wright's 1919 portrait entitled simply "Lady in Black." Her face is familiar since Wright's 22-year-old model stayed in California where he painted the portrait to become the actress who played the role of the Wicked Witch of the West in the 1930s movie version of the Wizard of Oz. Interestingly enough, Wright and Richards grew up on the same Salt Lake City block and later collaborated on several mural commissions to include the one that appears in the Utah State Senate chambers.

At the south end of the gallery looking almost like a window into the grandeur of the "Tetons" is H.L.A. Culmer's breathtaking landscape of one of the nation's greatest natural wonders. Part of the private collection of Neil and Jane Schaerrer, the painting must

be termed as a major piece of early 20th century Utah art.

The collection is by no means a three pointing show since one will find on display John Haffen's 1909 "Hollyhocks" painted in Indiana's lovely Brown County. Haffen, who counted Payson among his early hometowns, has captured the color and essence of the flowers in a style which earned him distinction as one of Utah's finest landscape artists. His "Quaking Aspen" painted in 1907 is another fine part of the exhibition.

As a departure from the many oils in the collection, Alfred Lambourne's "Island on the Inland Sea" is an example of the artist's work in a tempera medium called Guache. He used this since he was allergic to oil paints. The English-born painter traveled extensively in late 19th century Utah and his paintings depict his fascination

with the majesty of Utah's landscape.

The only other non-oil in the display is the Wesley Browning pastel "Wasatch Mountains in Early Spring." Browning, who began as a weekend painter, roamed the wilderness searching out subjects for his paintings and specimens for his extensive insect collection. He was an early winner of the Springville Museum of Art's annual competition in 1922.

No display of early Utah artists would be complete without the works of J. T. Harwood. Three separate styles are represented in his "Boy with a Bun," "Evening" and "An Interesting Story." Another University of Utah professor in his later years, Harwood's paintings show the influence of his European training and his interest in the forms and figures he painted as being clear impressions of real things and people.

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